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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

December 20, 2007

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

We have been informed that the General Services Administration (GSA) will eliminate office supplies from its Global Supply Stock Program as part of the strategic sourcing initiative recently established by the Office of Management and Budget. As Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, we are concerned about this development because the Stock Program has experienced high levels of small business participation. In addition, due to this program, multiple small businesses currently provide office products to supply depots across the nation for stockpiling in the event of a major disaster.

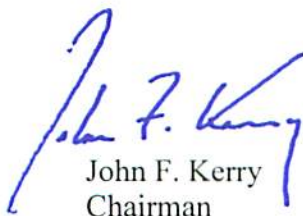
In light of our concerns, we request that the Government Accountability Office evaluate:

- The extent to which small businesses will continue to have opportunities for large scale participation in federal office supply contract awards if the GSA eliminates office supplies from its Global Supply Stock Program, and
- How elimination of GSA's Global Supply Stock Program would affect our country's ability to react quickly to major disasters.

We recognize that the changes contemplated by the GSA, as part of the strategic sourcing initiative are being developed to speed up the acquisition process and save taxpayer funds, and we would welcome your evaluation of whether such efficiencies are likely to be realized. Regardless, we think it is imperative that you assist Congressional review of this matter in greater detail and consider potential detrimental economic impacts to small businesses before GSA terminates office supplies from the Stock Program.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Mr. Gregory Willis for Senator Kerry and Mr. Erik Necciai for Senator Snowe at 202-224-5175.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
Chairman


Olympia J. Snowe
Ranking Member